

Message Text

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INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3991

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SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #48, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 7

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1. SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS (LOU)

AN EIGHT-MEMBER USSR SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION IS CURRENTLY VISITING BURMA AT THE INVITATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN OF THE PYITHU HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT). THE DELEGATION, HEADED BY NAZAR MATKARIMOVITCH, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND CHAIRMAN OF THE UZBEK SUPREME SOVIET, IS RECIPROCATING A PYITHU HLUTTAW DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR. THE BURMESE PRESS IS GIVING DAILY FRONT-PAGE PRESS PLAY TO THE VISIT.

COMMENT: DESPITE THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY, THE VISIT SEEMS TO BE ROUTING.

2. MINES MINISTER IN INDONESIA (LOU)

GUB MINISTER FOR MINES U MAUNG MAUNG KHA ARRIVED IN JAKARTA NOVEMBER 28 TO BEGIN A TWO WEEK STUDY TOUR OF THE INDONESIAN PETROLEUM AND MINING INDUSTRY. U MAUNG MAUNG KHA HAS ALSO HELD TALKS WITH INDONESIAN LEADERS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INDONESIAN AND BURMESE OIL INDUSTRIES. HE MET WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, ACTING MINES MINISTER RADIUS PRAWIRO AND PERTAMINA PRESIDENT PIET HARJONO. THE MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PETROLEUM REFINERIES, A LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT IN SUMATRA AND NICKEL MINES IN THE CELEBES. AN INDONESIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID BURMA IS SEEKING MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ITS OIL INDUSTRY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MAUNG MAUNG KHA IS STUDYING INDONESIAN PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN FIRMS.

3. AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRIA (UNCL)

BURMA AND AUSTRIA SIGNED AN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 3. ACCORDING TO A BURMA AIRWAYS OFFICIAL, THE AGREEMENT IS PHRASED IN THE USUAL TERMS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AIRLINES FROM EITHER COUNTRY WILL UTILIZE THEIR RIGHTS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. ANOTHER COUP PLOTTER ADMITS GUILT (UNCL)

ALLEGED COUP PLOT RING-LEADER CAPT. OHN KYAW MYINT GAVE NEW TESTIMONY STATING THAT HIS EARLIER TESTIMONY CONFIDENTIAL

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BEFORE THE COURT WAS FALSE AND THAT HE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL CONFESSION WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY RETRACTED. HE HAS THUS IN EFFECT ADMITTED GUILT, BUT HE QUALIFIED THIS SOMEWHAT BY ARGUING THAT HE HAD NOT COMMITTED THE CRIMES CHARGED PHYSICALLY, BUT ONLY MENTALLY AND ORALLY. HE ALSO TESTIFIED THAT HE, CAPT. SAN KYI, CAPT. TUN KYAW AND CAPT. WIN THEIN WERE THE PRINCIPAL OFFENDERS, AND THAT OTHER BECAME INVOLVED IN THE CASE ONLY

BECAUSE OF HIS CONTACTS WITH THEM.

5. BOMBS EXPLODE AT NEWSPAPER OFFICES (LOU)

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED NOVEMBER 29 AT OFFICES OF THE KYEMON (MIRROR) AND BOTATAUNG (VANGUARD) BURMESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS. NO MAJOR DAMAGE OCCURRED AT EITHER OF THE PRESSES, AND ONE PERSON WAS ARRESTED SOON AFTERTWARD ON SUSPICION OF HAVING SET THE EXPLOSION AT THE BOTATAUNG. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT WHEN THIS SUSPECT WAS TAKEN TO A DETENTION CENTER FOR INTERROGATION, HE HAD A HIDDEN PISTOL WITH WHICH HE MANAGED TO SHOOT ONE OR MORE OF HIS INTERROGATORS BEFORE HE WAS HIMSELF WOUNDED AND DISARMED.

6. NUPITALS FOR NE WIN? (LOU)

JUNE ROSE BELLAMY, THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST LADY FREIND, RETURNED TO BURMA LAST WEEK AND HAS BEEN SEEN WITH NEW WIN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IT IS RUMORED THAT THE COUPLE WERE MARRIED ON DECEMBER 3 OR 4, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

JUNE ROSE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A FEMALE DESCENDANT OF BURMA'S LAST ROYAL FAMILY AND A WESTERNER VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS ENGLISH OR AUSTRALIAN. FORMERLY MARRIED TO AN ITALIAN, SHE HAS BEEN LIVING IN EUROPE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. (SEE WEEKA #39, ITEM 1).

7. AMBASSADORS TO THAILAND, NEPAL (UNCL)

THE GUB ANNOUNCED THE APOINTMENT OF U TUANG HMUNG AS AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND AND U G. BOWN YING AS AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL. AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WILL BE POUCHED TO BANGKOK AND KATHMANDU.

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8. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES FOR NOVEMBER (UNCL)

ACCORDING TO VARIOUS PRESS ACCOUNTS, DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER POLICE, CUSTOMS AND TOWN COUNCIL OFFICIALS ARRESTED 36 PERSONS ON CHARGES OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. APPROXIMATELY 350 LBS. OF RAW OPIUM WAS SEIZED, WITH THE LARGEST HAULS IN UPPER CHINDWIN DIVISION (150 LBS.) AND IN MOULEMEIN, WHERE 73 LBS. WAS SEIZED ABOARD A TRAWLER. SIX POUNDS OF COOKED OPIUM WAS SEIZED ON A BUS AT THE HSIPQS CUSTOMS CHECKPOINT. IN FIVE SEPARATE ACTIONS IN RANGOON, EIGHT PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR SELLING SMALL PACKETS OF HEROIN. IN THE AREA AROUND MONYO, SOME 90 MILES NORTH OF RANGOON, A COMBINED FORCE OF PARTY, TOWN COUNCIL AND POLICE OFFICERS BURNED A REPORTED 5,672 GANJA PLANTS AND ARRESTED 14 PERSONS.

9. POPPY ERADICATION SUCCESSFUL IN KALAW AREA (CONF)
CONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS THAT GUB OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION EFFORTS IN THE KALAW AREA OF THE SOUTHERN SHAN STATE HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL. IN KALAW TOWNSHIP, FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY 4-5 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S POPPY ACREAGE WAS REPLANTED THIS YEAR IN POPPY, ALL OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN UPROOTED BY LOCAL TOWNSHIP FORCES. THE KALAW AREA IS UNDER GUB CONTROL AND SO THE ERADICATION PROGRAM CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITH MORE EASE AND SUCCESS THAN IN OTHER AREAS OF THE SHAN STATE WHERE CONTROL IS CONTESTED WITH INSURGENT GROUPS.
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